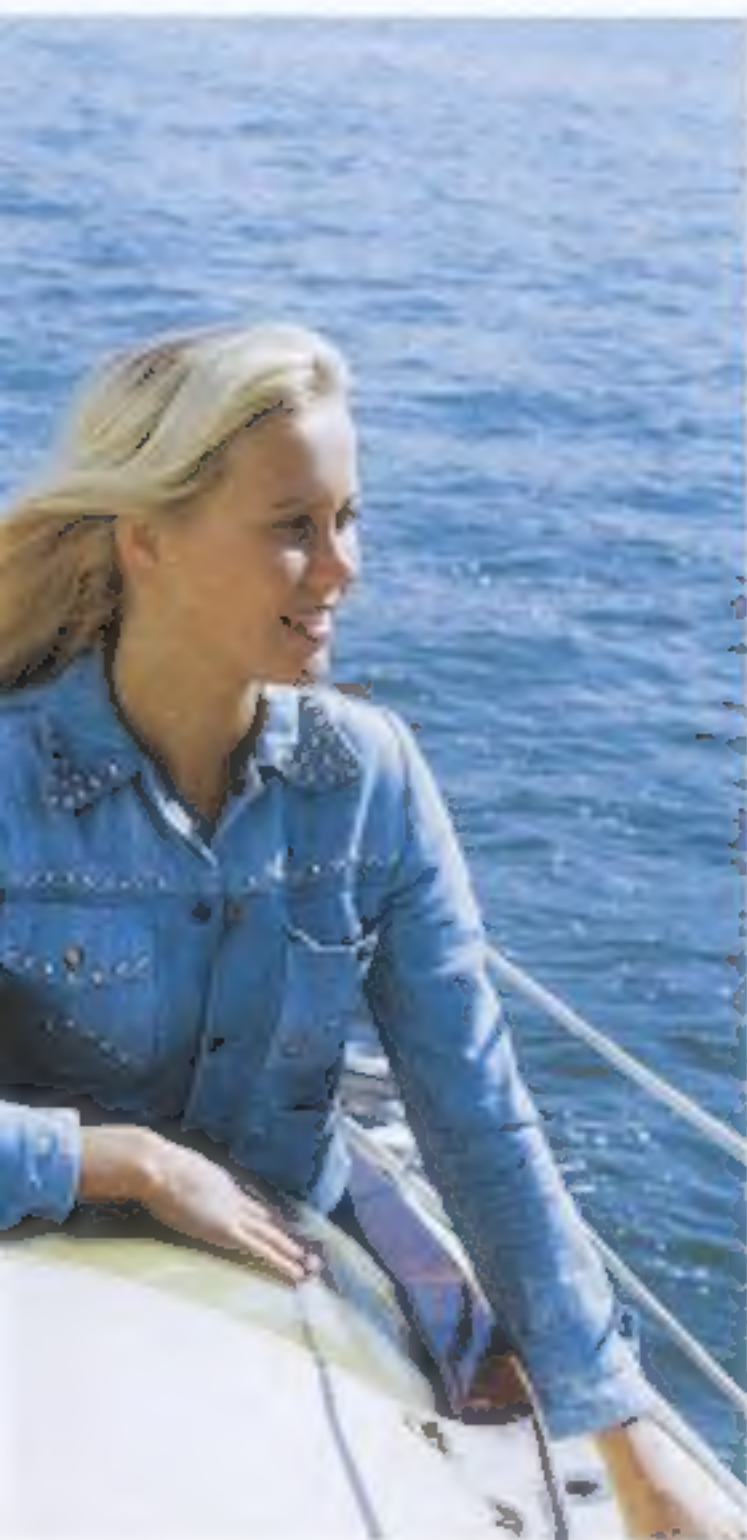


ABBA Ring Ring







ABBA Ring Ring

■ ABBA Ring Ring

Ring Ring was first released in Sweden as Polar POLS 242 on March 26, 1973. Recording sessions began in March 1972 and continued until March 1973. The album was recorded at Metronome, Europafilm and KMH studios in Stockholm, Sweden.

✶ ABBA out selling in the Stockholm archipelago.

ABBA Ring Ring

■ The happiest sound of them all

liner notes by Carl Magnus Palm

When the album *Ring Ring* by Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Frida was released in Sweden on March 26, 1973, it marked the culmination of a process that had begun seven years earlier.

It all started with a chance meeting between Björn Ulvåus and Benny Andersson in the summer of 1966. Björn was part of the folk music group the Hootenanny Singers, while Benny was a member of the pop group The Hep Stars. Both bands were among Sweden's top acts at the time. From this first meeting, a friendship grew, eventually blossoming into a songwriting collaboration. The Hootenanny Singers' records were released on the record label Polar Music, owned by music publisher Stig Anderson. He was taking an interest in Björn and Benny as songwriters, hoping that they would fulfil his dream of reaching outside the borders with Swedish music. This was something few acts had been able to do.

Around the same time, Benny met and fell in love with Anni-Frid Lyngstad, also known as Frida, while a romance blossomed between Björn and Agnetha Fältskog. Both women were former

dance band singers who had since embarked on solo careers. By the spring of 1970, the two couples were both engaged. Later that year they started collaborating, both on record and on stage. Frida and Agnetha supported the boys with backing vocals on a song called "Hej gamle man!" ("Hey Old Man!"), which became a hit in Sweden.

The four friends also tried working together as a cabaret act, but with fairly disastrous results. Luckily, the romantic relationships survived the failure, and in July 1971 Björn and Agnetha got married.

In the Spring of 1972 a series of events started that would eventually result in the quartet's first group album. A few years earlier, Björn and Benny had recorded music for a somewhat dubious film entitled *The Seduction Of Inga*. One of the songs in the film was called *She's My Kind Of Girl* and was released on a single. As a duo, the pair simply called themselves Björn & Benny. Two years later, a Japanese publisher got wind of the

ABBA shortly after their hit with *Ring Ring*. ■





ABBA Ring Ring

song and felt that its somewhat oriental-sounding, melancholy melody could become a hit in his country. She's *My Kind Of Girl* was released in Japan and stormed up the charts, reaching number one. This success encouraged Björn and Benny to write more pop songs in English. Moreover, they felt that they wanted to try recording together with Agnetha and Frida – they both realized that the women were the better singers.

On March 29, 1972, the two couples recorded the song *People Need Love*, widely recognized as the very first ABBA song. At the time of the song's original release in June, the group had no real name and called themselves Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Anni-Frid. *People Need Love* rapidly became a hit, reaching num-

ber 17 on the combined singles and albums chart in Sweden. The B-side of the single, *Merry-Go-Round*, is included as a bonus selection on this CD.

By the Autumn of 1972, sessions for the album were in full swing, and in November a second group single was released: *He Is Your Brother*, which became a big hit on a Swedish radio chart. The B-side, *Santa Rosa*, was recorded earlier in the year, and is a bonus track on this CD.

“It was the sound of a group coming together”

As luck would have it, Björn, Benny and Stig – a highly prolific lyricist – were invited to write a song for the Swedish selections of the 1973 Eurovision Song Contest. The song they came up with was *Ring, Ring*. With the aid of their invaluable sound engineer, Michael B. Tretow, they borrowed some inspiration from the legendary producer Phil Spector when the track was recorded. The group achieved a sound that was completely new

for a Swedish pop record. Neil Sedaka, the famous singer and songwriter, provided English lyrics for *Ring, Ring* in collaboration with his partner Phil Cody. Performing the song in the Eurovision selections in February, the group felt certain of their victory. Unfortunately, the music business experts residing in the jury – a mix of singers, songwriters and journalists – felt otherwise, and *Ring, Ring* finished third. But there was no doubt that Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Anni-Frid had the people's vote. Shortly after the selections, both the Swedish and the English versions of

48 Björn & Benny, Agnetha & Anni-Frid at the Swedish selections for the Eurovision Song Contest, February, 1973.

ABBA Ring Ring

Ring, Ring were released as separate singles. They both stormed up the charts, and when the *Ring Ring* album was released, the group broke a statistics record. For two weeks in a row, the Swedish version of *Ring, Ring* was number one, the English number two, while the album was number three on the combined singles and albums chart. It was with this convincing success that the group decided to make their collaboration more permanent.

In the Spring of 1973, the *Ring Ring* LP was finally issued, by which time Anni-Frid had become Frida on the records. The album presented the sound of a group coming together: it was clear that the foursome didn't have a definite aim with their music at this point.

Although *Ring Ring* included all their singles so far, some of the material was scraped together in great haste. *I Saw It In The Mirror* had been written by Björn and Benny for another artist three years earlier. *I Am Just A Girl* was also something of a cover version: it even used the same backing track as the original Swedish version of the song, written and produced by Benny for a male actor. *Rock'n'Roll Band*, finally, had been the B-side of a Japanese Björn & Benny single the previous year. After some additional overdubs and a new mix, the track was ready for inclusion on the new LP.

Ring Ring is also the only ABBA album to offer a songwriting contribution from Agnetha. *Disillusion*, with lyrics by Björn, was

recorded just a few weeks after Agnetha gave birth to her and Björn's first child, Linda. The song certainly didn't shame its inclusion on the LP. Frida had her solo lead vocal on *Me And Bobby And Bobby's Brother*, one of the few songs to feature lyrics by Benny. In the Andersson/Ölveous partnership, this chore was mostly handled by Björn.

The original Swedish release of the *Ring Ring* album included the Swedish version of the title track, featured as a bonus track on this CD. When the album was released internationally, the song was replaced by *She's My Kind Of Girl*. Those who want to hear the album as ABBA themselves planned it may programme their CD players thus: tracks 15, 2-9, 1, 11, 12.

Despite being robbed of the promotion opportunity that the Eurovision Song Contest could have provided, the *Ring, Ring* single was released in many countries. It topped the charts in Belgium, and reached the top five in The Netherlands, Norway and South Africa. Several other songs on the album, such as *Another Town*, *Another Train*, *I Am Just A Girl* and *Nina, Pretty Ballerina* reached the charts as singles in various parts of the world.

The album was not picked up by as many countries, but climbed up to number two in Norway, and would eventually become a Top 10 album in Australia. *Ring Ring* was a more than credible attempt at making pop music for an international market. But even bigger things were waiting around the corner. ■

An alternate shot from the Ring Ring photo session. 19





ABBA Ring Ring

■ Ring Ring

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
~~~~~

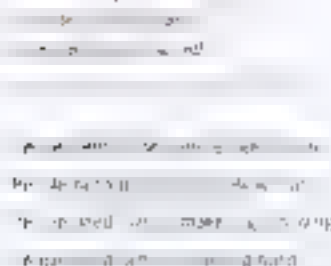
• 1977 Christmas celebrations at the Södraaven school of Malmö, where all four members were doing at the time.





ABBA Ring Ring

04 People Need Love

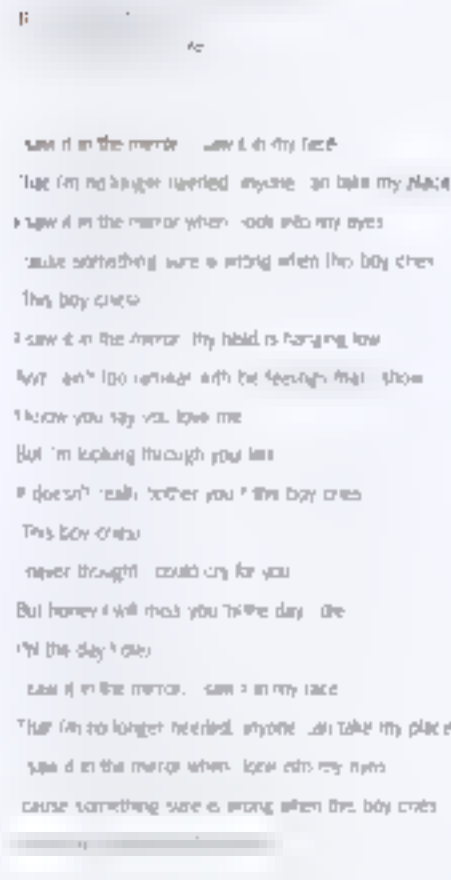


Man has always wanted a woman by his side
To keep him company
Women always know that if a man
Wants some female sympathy
Everybody knows that a man who's feeling down,
Wants some female sympathy
Gotta have love to carry on living
Gotta have love to carry on living

People need love from a fellow man
People need love to make a good living
People need love in a helping hand
'Cause in a desert need a drop of rain
And a woman needs her man
A man's in love and his woman wants the moon
Then he'll rain it down if he can
Somebody who loves you and somebody who cares
Isn't that what you call a friend
Gotta have love to carry on living
Isn't it easy to understand
People need hope, people need loving
People need trust from a fellow man
People need love to make a good living
People need faith in a helping hand
People need hope, people need loving

People need trust from a fellow man
People need love to make a good living
People need faith in a helping hand

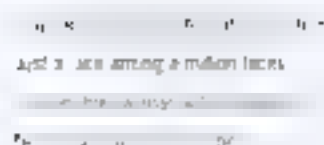
05 Saw It In The Mirror



06 Nina, Pretty Ballerina

© Anderson:R Vibe
Unauthorized Sample AB

every day in the morning or her way to the office



And a love among a million faces
And a love among a million faces
But she's still something special
If you know her, with love you'd agree
'Cause when she's got a little secret
Every evening she turns out to be
Nina, pretty ballerina
Now she is the queen of the dancing floor
This is the moment she's wanted for
Just like Cinderella
And her Cinderella
Nina, pretty ballerina
Who would ever think she could be this way
This is the part that she likes to play
But she knows the fun would go away
If she would play it every day
So she's back every morning to her work at the office
And another week is just a dream
And another rule of early mornings
In an almost never-ending dream
Doesn't look any other kind of shy and uncertain
Everybody seems to think she's a girl
But they wouldn't know her little secret
What her Friday night would have it store
Nina, pretty ballerina
Now she is the queen of the dancing floor
This is the moment she's wanted for
Just like Cinderella
And her Cinderella
Nina, pretty ballerina
Who would ever think she could be this way





This is the part that she does to make

How pretty looking

After she is the owner of the dark eye 100%

She is the woman who makes it

And she understands

And she understands

How pretty looking

After people have been told about her story

That is the part that she does to play

Love Isn't Easy (But It Sure Is Hard Enough)

Johnny Cash Lyrics

It may seem like you're not alone

And all of your wishes seem to

But I know it's not like it seems

There's a lot of love in the world

But I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

Love and Agony with Your Song

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

Me And Bobby And Bobby's Brother

Johnny Cash Lyrics

Johnny Cash Lyrics

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems

And I know it's not like it seems



AGB2: Remy R

me happy and I just to be with the boy
Being a little girl
I found a place in the sun
to have enough fun
When there was me and Bobby and Bobby's brother
When did you could see
We would play together
Among the apple tree
For there was me and Bobby and Bobby's brother
There was the sun in the palm
When we got all my memories
There were my happiest days
After there was me and Bobby and Bobby's brother
There was me back to the palm
When we got all my memories
There were my happiest days
Got all my memories there were my happiest days
When we got all my memories
There were my happiest days
Got all my memories there were my happiest days
When we got all my memories
There were my happiest days
Got all my memories there were my happiest days

He Is Your Brother

" " "

was a higher when looking for trouble
And my life was so empty
There was nothing left to live for
But then I happened one night as I got into a
could hear someone saying as though he was saying

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

Tired him with he is your brother
You might need his help one day
He depends on me brother
One him that the only one
On the road for the road that we're going
A
He is your brother
One him that the only one
was a woman here the way of others
And my life was so empty didn't see for anybody
But then I happened one night as I got into a
I happened one night as I got into a
He turned down his playing heard someone saying
Tired him with he is your brother brother
You might need his help one day he is your brother
He depends on me another brother
One him that the only one
On the road for the road
That we're going that we're going
He is your brother brother

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

Tired him with he is your brother brother
One him that the only one
Tired him with he is your brother brother
You might need his help one day he is your brother
He depends on me another brother
One him that the only one
On the road for the road
That we're going that we're going
He is your brother brother

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

one at her face. It's a wonderful fact
And it means something special to me
Look at the way that you smile when life says me
How happy up the hillside be
She is just the kind of girl who makes me happy
And that's what I want that she would be mine
She is just the kind of girl without her I'm blue
And if she ever leaves me what could I do
What could I do
And when we go for a walk in the park
Then she holds me and squeezes my hand
And I go on walking for hours and talking
About all the things that we love
She is just the kind of girl who makes me feel
And that's what I want that she would be mine
She is just the kind of girl without her I'm blue
And if she ever leaves me what could I do
What could I do

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

AGB2: Remy R: The Selected Songs

one at her face. It's a wonderful fact
And it means something special to me
Look at the way that you smile when life says me
How happy up the hillside be
She is just the kind of girl who makes me happy
And that's what I want that she would be mine
She is just the kind of girl without her I'm blue
And if she ever leaves me what could I do
What could I do
And when we go for a walk in the park
Then she holds me and squeezes my hand
And I go on walking for hours and talking
About all the things that we love
She is just the kind of girl who makes me feel
And that's what I want that she would be mine
She is just the kind of girl without her I'm blue
And if she ever leaves me what could I do
What could I do

AEBA Ring Ring

When you smiled and whispered love you
 Darling could see was meant to be your girl
 It's a funny feeling when you get to love someone
 And thinking you'll never look your way
 But then he says he loves you, and he has just begun
 It's so much more than any words can say
 It's just a girl
 Not the kind of woman men would like to meet
 And another girl no one ever looks at in the street
 One today can't believe it's true
 When you smiled and whispered love you
 Darling could see, was meant to be your girl
 The lady can't believe it's true
 When you smiled and whispered love you
 Darling could see, was meant to be your girl

■ 12 Rock'n'Roll Band

[illegible]

Sitting at the darkest corner
in the lowest light saw that the
she was looking so sad and lonely
Someone help me, someone save me
could see the look she gave me. Oh
Oh yeah and there was one thing only
all those roads for
me to get
It's a quality piece that works
Love on baby and dance
To the rock n' roll
at me when you that know how

Come on baby let's dance
To the rock'n'roll band
Come on baby let's dance
To the rock'n'roll band
You've been sitting there for hours
Try to hide behind the flowers now
Baby we could have fun together
Come on cheer up let's get started
No use being down-hearted now
Oh yeah you're gonna feel much better

Let's go go
It's a beautiful place they would
Come on baby let's dance
To the rock'n roll band
Let's go now
Let me show you that show now
Come on baby let's dance
To the rock'n roll band
Come on baby let's dance
To the rock'n roll band

■ + 3 Merry-Go-Round

11. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1977; 237: 1001-1002.

have tried in vain rather than succumb
So if I seem to be a nothing but a cross
Have lost my only friend
Now I seem to have to start again
Miserable count
Where am I going
With my love and feelings

When you're young
 Who wanted to kiss the
 And hug me and mess me
 They were angry to do it
 With that horn it
 When you're young
 With that horn
 Something to do for
 Where are you
 It's a mystery
 I see is just a
 To open with my hands
 With your and your
 Looking for someone
 Who would want to stay

With a bell of each one day,
 the world began
 on one, the end by again

We're all bound
 We're all bound
 We're all bound
 We're all bound
 We're all bound
 We're all bound

With a good friend
Somebody to be for
Where am bound
- the 9th century

ABBA Ring Ring

If life is just only
To live with my living
Goes round and round
Merry-go-round
Where am I bound
With my love and feelings
Merry-go-round
Who wants to lead me
And hug me and kiss me
Yes, who wants to do it
I wish that I knew it
Merry-go-round
Which I had found
Somebody to care for
Where am I bound
Life is so lonely
If life is just only
To live with my living
Goes round and round
Merry-go-round
Merry-go-round...

14 Santa Rosa

B. Anderson/B. Anderson
Jenny Holm/Songs AB

I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa
How I wish to see the old house where I used to live
Where I belong
[Cause I have found no other place where I could stay
I'm tired and all my dreams have faded along the way
I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa
Though I wonder what my life is
Would I wish about the how

I guess I've changed
Like people do when things get strange
But in the end, somehow I know we'll get along
Santa Rosa I'll be back to stay
In case my way
Santa Rosa I'll be back to stay
I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa
How I wish to see the old house where I used to live
And all my friends, will they be there,
When I come home
How I regret the day when I set out to roam
Santa Rosa I'll be back to stay
On my way
Santa Rosa I'll be back to stay
I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa
I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa
I'd give anything to be back home in Santa Rosa

15 Ring, ring (bara du slog en signal)

B. Anderson/B. Anderson/B. Anderson
Jenny Holm/Songs AB

Fyrd och 800 är bevakat
När den larmen kom ut från
Och ropen du och säger Jävla! nu kom du gjorda
Allting är så bra med för
Ingen smärta på den örn
Det ska också mig fresta inte, nu som det är
Inget har mig just nu
Ingen annan bara du
Ring ring, bara du slog en signal
Ring ring, lystraden är så rolig
Ring ring, sågna den som sommar

Om jag fick en signal, tog jag en signal
Härst gårde en vax, ringdang ringdang
Om du ring ringdang en endaste gång
Om du ring ringdang en endaste gång
Allt en brödet kramat
Lika lytt varada dag
Om det står så, det står det i värld, man deklarerar
Om den står så ett kvartal
Om den står just var lytt
Om jag har en signal, tog jag en signal
Inget har mig just nu
Ingen annan bara du
Ring ring, bara du slog en signal
Ring ring, lystraden är så rolig
Ring ring, sågna den som sommar
Om jag fick en signal, tog jag en signal
Härst gårde en vax, ringdang ringdang
Om du ring ringdang en endaste gång
Om du ring ringdang en endaste gång

Credits

Musicians: Acoustic guitar: Janne Schaffer, Björn Ulvæus. Electric guitar: Janne Schaffer. Electric bass: Rutger Gunnarsson, Mike Watson. Piano and melotron: Benny Andersson. Drums: Ole Brunkert, Roger Palm. String arrangement / *I Am Just A Girl*: Sven-Olof Walldoff. Regarding *Santa Rosa* and *She's My Kind Of Girl* no documentation as to the musicians can be found.

Produced by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvæus. Recorded at Metronome Studio, RMF and Europafilm studios, Stockholm. Engineered by Michael B. Tretlow with assistance of Rune Persson, Åke Eriksson and Lennart Karlsson (RMF) and Björn Arvidsson (Europafilm).

Cover photos by Bengt H. Malmqvist (front) and Lars Falck Quack. Booklet photos by Bengt H. Malmqvist/Pressens Bild, Kennet Thoren/GTT Bild, M. Brandén/Pressens Bild, Rolf Adersjö/Allerhögst Bild, Pressens Bild. Master tape photo by Tomas Fager. Original art direction by Peter Wörling. Art direction and redesign 2001 by Fredrik Hultig/802. New liner notes 2001 by Carl Magnus Palm, with thanks to Ian Cole and Tressie Nilsson. Remastered 2001 by Jon Astley with Michael B. Tretlow. Release supervised by Marko Söderström. Release project coordinators: Jeanette Andersson and Margareta Lundström. Thanks to Görel Hanner and Carol Benny.

Björn and Benny baking traditional Swedish gingerbread. 





